उपसभापति : अब आप समाप्त कीजिए ।

श्रीमती कमला सिंहा : मैं समाप्त कर रही हूं ।

बारम्बार कहा गया है कि हम लोगों ने धरना दिया, सत्याग्रह किया कि जो मैं बनाए हैं उनको प्राइमरी स्कूल के टीचर का दर्जा दिया जाए और सहायिका को स्कूल में जो असिस्टेंट करते हैं सहायक का, उनका दर्जा दिया जाए । आज हिन्दुस्तान भर की आंगन-बाड़ी की बहनें आई हुई हैं । लगभग तीस-चालीस हजार बहनें आई हुई हैं । वे अपनी फरियाद लेकर आई हैं ।

मैं सदन के सामने सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूं और आज कल्याण मंत्री यहां बैठे हैं । वह तो सुन भी रहे हैं तो वह कल्याण क्या करेंगे ? यह विभाग कल्याण मंत्रालय का है । मैं यह चाहती हूं कि इस विषय पर कल्याण मंत्री कुछ बोलें कि क्या करेंगे ?

उपसभापति : बस हो गया । .... **(व्यवधान)** ....

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : महोदया .. **(व्यवधान)** ... यह बहुत ही अहम मुद्दा है । ... **(व्यवधान)** ....

RE PRIVATISATION OF BAILADILA MINES

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, I wish to draw the attention of the House and the Government to an important matter. India's best high quality mineral deposit has been put on sale. It is being sold out to domestic and foreign private entrepreneurs. That is being done at an abnormally low compensation without any competitive national or international bidding. This is clearly a case of jeopardising India's national interest and showing undue favour to the favoured of the people who are there in the corridor of power. The move to privatise the best iron ore mine of the country situated in Bailadila in Uttar Pradesh where Adivasis are there in large numbers has been done or is being done by the Ministry of Steel. An attempt is being made to hand it over in a pre-determined way. Madam, an attempt is being made to hand it over in pre-determined way to Nippon Denro Ispat Limited. Madam, the matter is too serious, dubious and needs immediate intervention of the Government and the Prime Minister. I met the Prime Minister I wish he immediately intervenes. The background is like this. The National Mineral Development Corporation was set up in 1958. It was doing excellent business. Within a span of 20 years it has earned a profit or Rs. 1764 crores and in the last three years the profit has been around Rs. 100 crore a year. Even then, Madam, the Minister of Steel still does not believe that the National Mineral Development Corporation has enough funds to develop the best iron ore mine of the country. Since he believes that he has no money, in such a situation, therefore, they have given open directive. In fact, the National Mineral Development Corporation had decided to develop Bailadila on its own in 1993 and the Government had also agreed Suddenly, the issue was reopened by the end of 1993 by the Ministry of Steel. The reason can only be explained by them. Then the NMDC refused to hand it over to the private sector. The NMDC members were called and they were coerced. Even then they did not relent. In such a situation the Ministry of Steel under the signature of the Director of the Ministry of Steel, namely some T. P. Singh, issued a directive. They had issued a directive to the NMDC. I am quoting the directive. It says...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Gurudasji...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Only two, three minutes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Two, three minutes I can't give you, I am sorry—I want to be straight. Because we have only one hour, I don't want to allow you all the time at the cost of the other Members. Just because you are the first speaker, it doesn't mean you can take the time.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I will be very fast, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are other people also.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: They had issued a directive and the directive said that the Government had decided to put it under the private sector, and they had also said that the participation of NMDC should be kept as low as 11 per cent of the equity. The question is that the NMDC had never agreed. Papers have been presented to the Prime Minister. I am in possession of all the papers and I have sought the permission of the Hon. Chairman to place on the table of the House the entire papers. That will show the volume of collusion. What is being presented as a proposal of the NMDC is not the proposal of the NMDC. It is a made-to-order proposal of the NMDC; they have been forced to do it under the duress of the Ministry of Steel. It is not the NMDC alone which is opposing it. This is a unique occasion when I find myself in total agreement with the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance has totally opposed it. The Minister of Labour, while addressing a workers' meeting at Bailadila, opposed it. The Ministry of Finance had opposed it because, they said, it was a case of predetermined handing over; they said the compensation was abnormally low, they said that it was being done abnormally, without international bidding; they said that the compensation should be around Rs. 100 crores. But the Ministry of Steel would like the payment to be only Rs. 10 crores. You can very well imagine where the collusion lies.

Confronted with the opposition of the Ministry of Finance and the NMDC, confronted with the opposition of the Minister of Labour and all the trade unions — irrespective of colour—together opposing it, Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, the Minister of Steel, had put up a note to the Prime Minister on 27th February.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Das Gupta...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Just a minute, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please. I am sorry, I can't.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am concluding.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Every time you say that you are concluding.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am concluding. Just one minute.

Confronted with this, the Steel Minister had put up a note to the Prime Minister on 27th February and he wants it to be approved. Therefore, they would like to pass it through the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. This is a dubious thing and behind the back of the Cabinet this is being sought to be done.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Dinankar Mukherjee.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I want an inquiry into the role of the Minister of Steel. I believe there are too many skeletons in the cupboard, and it must be brought to light who is that important person

in the Ministry of Steel who is behind this backstage manipulation, and that important person must be identified.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dipankar Mukherjee. Just be brief because I have many names here.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, for me is nothing but sale of public assets. And what are these public assets. As per The Hindu annual survey report of 1993 on Indian industry, there are 116 million tonnes of iron ore reserves there, with an iron content of 65 per cent — the best in the world. Our shortfall in iron ore right now is to the tune of 6.5 million tonnes. These 116 million tonnes will last some 20—25 years.

Now, what exactly is being done? The PIB had cleared the proposal for the development of the 11-B mine in 1992-93. I would like to ask the Government, is it not a fact that the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant had asked to acquire this particular 11-B mine as a captive mine and also whether it is not a fact that it was refused by the Government? This mineral resource is a public asset. Madam, through you I would like to ask the House only one fundamental question? What for are we here? We can ask questions about NMDC how many officials have gone abroad or how many curtains are there, but is it parliamentary control or executive control so far as the sale of public assets is concerned? This is my question. As Members of the Public Undertakings Committee, we are here. Jageshbhai is there. Are we to check only all these figures, and behind us something will be sold? Is it that tomorrow if someone in the Urban Development Ministry will say that 89 per cent of this building will be given to someone, then there will be a press report and then we discuss it here in the Zero Hour? What is the *modus operandi* of selling public assets? Is it parliamentary control, or is it executive control? That is my question to the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam in the present stage of economic policy the reforms have taken a back seat and deals have taken a front seat. The matter mentioned by Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta is a classic example of the deals replacing reforms during the present stage of economic policy.

Madam, this is the best iron-ore deposit. The first question is whether it should be given to a private sector company at all.

Number two, if it is to be given to a private sector company, should the decision be taken by an autonomous body like the NMDC? Should the decision be pushed down the throat of the NMDC by the Steel Ministry? Even if the Steel Ministry is competent to thrust its decision on the NMDC should it not do so on proper economic considerations? Should it sell such a valuable asset for a song?

Madam, as has been mentioned the Finance Ministry has opposed this entire proposal of the SAIL on the ground that the compensation sought to be given is too low. Let me quote only one sentence from the note given by the Finance Ministry:

> "In view of the extremely favourable features of 11-B deposits, it will not be fair to transfer the properties to the joint sector venture at Rs. 5.84 crores as suggested."

This is the objection raised by the Finance Ministry after conducting a detailed economic analysis. Still, the Steel Ministry is rushing through this. The Prime Minister's Office is being stage-managed. The Cabi-

net Committee on Economic Affairs is being bypassed. Whether Parliament of India would also be bypassed. I would like to know Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Janardhan Yadav. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, we want a statement from the Government. It is an important matter. ...(*Interruptions*).

SYED SIBTEY RAZI (Uttar Pradesh): I am very sorry. It is against the procedure followed in the Zero Hour. The Government never responds in the Zero Hour. They want to take a political mileage out of it. I am very sorry that the Zero Hour is being misused by the Opposition like this. There is no procedure that the Government should respond in the Zero Hour.

Secondly, they just create surprises in this House like this in the Zero Hour. If the Chairman has permitted this. I have respect for the Chairman. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Does the Minister require notice for this? ...(*Interruptions*).

SYED SIBTEY RAZI: I strongly oppose it. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I am in possession of the papers including the letter written by Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev. I have also information. ...(*Interruptions*)

The Minister must come and explain to the House. ...(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Minister must explain. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)

Please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Steel Ministry is under a cloud. ....(*Interruptions*).

SYED SIBTEY RAZI: They are baseless allegations, Madam. ..(*Interruptions*).

There is a procedure in the House. You can adopt that procedure. But in the Zero Hour it is not responded to .... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What is the procedure?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. (*Interruptions*). Please take your seat.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: When the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is prepared to respond, you may kindly permit him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not permitting him. I am asking you to sit down first. I think it is very important, if you think so. (*Interruptions*). There is a procedure in the House for admission of motions. If you feel that the Government is at fault and is doing a wrong thing, then you please move a proper motion. Prepare it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, the Minister is here. He is ready to respond.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot ask the Minister to react. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Jaipal Reddy, I am not allowing it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We have requested the Minister and he has kindly agreed to respond.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: With your permission he cannot get up in the House. This is no way to run this House. There is a proper way. I can ask the Minister to react, when I think it is proper. He is not the Minister of Steel. He cannot give the answer. At the most he can say he will convey the feelings of the Members to the Minister.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Let him say that

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would not. You again and again get up from your seat. I think it is not proper. Don't make a spectacle of yourselves. People are watching you. Please do not do it. I am laying there is a proper procedure. You follow that if you are so sensitive about your sentiments being registered in the House. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has just come in.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Ask him to speak.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will ask him, but do not direct me. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: May I request you to permit the Minister to react? (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not permitting. I think this is a way of not allowing any other Member to participate in the House. So many important issues are raised in the House and these people get up again and again in the House. Other Members also have a right. This is not fair. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Narayanasamy, you also sit down. Mr. Minister what did you want to say?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MATANG SINH): Madam, I have noted the feelings of the hon. Members. These will be conveyed to the Minister concerned.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Now you issue direction.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will not issue direction. Please sit down.

आप बोलिए जनार्दन जी।

RE DRINKING WATER SCARCITY IN BIHAR

श्री जनार्दन यादव (बिहार) : मैडम मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान बिहार में पीने के पानी के घोर अभाव की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं। बिहार में सबसे ज्यादा गर्मी पड़ रही है और वहां नदी सूख गई है पोखर सूख गया है, कुएं भी सूख गए हैं और जो सरकारी चापा नल लगे हुए हैं उनके पानी का स्तर इतना नीचे चला गया है कि चापा नल से पानी नहीं निकल रहा है। शहरों में जो टैंक लगे हुए हैं, टैंक के द्वारा नलों में जो पानी जाना चाहिए, था, बिजली के अभाव में उस नल से भी पानी नहीं मिल रहा है। छोटा नागपुर, संथाल परगना और मध्य बिहार की हालत यह है कि 24 घंटे में एक-एक घड़ा पानी जमा करके, दूर-दूर से लाकर, किसी प्रकार से लोग प्यास बुझा रहे हैं और जान बचा रहे हैं। आप जानते हैं कि पानी ही जान है।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : सरकार ही बे-पानी है।

श्री जनार्दन यादव : इसलिए केन्द्र से हमारा आग्रह है कि केन्द्र सरकार इस पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था के लिए बिहार सरकार को अधिक से अधिक पैसा दे ताकि वहां पर पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था अविलम्ब कराई जा सके।